United Nations

Press Release

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council votes unanimously to set at 30 per cent, level of compensation to be paid by Iraq for damages caused by its invasion and occupation of Kuwait; a second decision, the Council allows Iraq to export oil in an amount not to exceed $1.6 billion to finance its humanitarian needs under tight United Nations control; while in a third decision also adopted unanimously, it demands that Iraq allow full, final and complete disclosure of all weapon sites.

- Secretary-General informs President of Security Council that he will proceed with arrangements for dispatch of survey mission to Cambodia.

- Major-General of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission protests to Iraqi authorities about incident in demilitarized zone.

- United Nations Disaster Relief office reports 88 people killed and 15,000 affected by floods in Romania.

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The Security Council this afternoon adopted three resolutions on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait.

By the first resolution, the Council decided unanimously that compensation to be paid by Iraq, in accordance with resolution 687 (1991), for damages caused by its invasion and occupation of Kuwait should not exceed 30 per cent of the annual value of its oil exports.

By the second resolution, adopted by a vote of 13 in favour to 1 against (Cuba), with 1 abstention (Yemen), the Council authorized all States to permit the import during a period of six months, of oil products originating in Iraq sufficient to produce a sum not to exceed $1.6 billion, subject to a number of conditions.

The full amount of each purchase of Iraqi petroleum or petroleum products would be paid directly by the purchaser into an escrow account to be established by the United Nations and administered by the Secretary-General.

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The Council decided that part of the sum should be made available to finance the pruchase of foodstuffs, medicines and other civilian necessities, with the amount of that allocation to be determined by the Council on the basis of an ongoing assessment of Iraq's requirements and with United Nations monitoring to assure the equitable distribution of the items. Another part of the limited oil revenues -- set at no more than 30 per cent under resolution 705 -- would be paid from the escrow account to the Compensation Fund and to meet the full costs of the tasks involved in monitoring Iraq's compliance with its disarmament obligations and half the costs of the Boundary Commission.

Also by the resolution, the Council asked the Secretary-General to submit, within 20 days, proposed methods for carrying out the relevant provisions. Iraq would be required to provide the Secretary-General and appropriate international organizations, with a monthly statement of its gold and foreign currency reserves.

By the third resolution, the Council unanimously demanded that Iraq provide full, final and complete disclosure, as required by resolution 687 (1991), of all aspects of its programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 km. The Council further demanded that Iraq allow the Special Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and their inspection teams immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to any and all areas and facilities, which they wish to inspect. It finally demanded that Iraq cease immediately any attempt to conceal, or any movement or destruction of any equipment relating to its nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or ballistic missile programmes.

In a statement before the vote, Mohammad A. Abulhasan, Kuwaiti urged the Security Council and the international community to exert pressure on the Iraqi regime to free the 2,409 Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti prisoners and nationals of 13 countries, who he said, were still imprisoned in Iraq.

Despite everything the Iraqi people and economy had undergone, Mr. Abulhasan said, the regime had pursued a policy of deception and delay, and it had not wished to resume its obligations or commitments.

Also speaking before the vote, Abdul A. Al-Anbari said Iraq had requested a grace period of five years before starting payment of compensation for damages caused by its invasion and occupation of Kuwait, because it needed the income of exports to pay its immense deficit. He referred to the report of the Under-Secretary-General Martti Ahtisaari on the humanitarian situation in Iraq, which had emphasized the high degree of destruction of the Iraqi infrastructure.

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Members of the Security Council have agreed to a proposal by the Secretary-General to proceed with the necessary arrangements for the dispatch of a survey mission to Cambodia.

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The Secretary-General made the proposal in a letter to the Council President, dated 8 August, in which he referred to an agreement, reached at a meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC) held in June, on an immediate and unlimited cease-fire and to stop receiving outside military assistance. He informed the Council President that the survey mission was requested by the SNC to evaluate ways to control the cease-fire and the end of foreign military aid.

The proposal had also been welcomed by the Co-Chairmen of the Paris Conference on Cambodia and the five permanent members of the Security Council, who in addition had suggested that the mission would begin the process of preparing for the military aspects of United Nations Mission -- to be known as UNTAC -- which will oversee the withdrawal of foreign troops and the holding of the upcoming elections.

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The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) reported today that 88 persons have died in Romania during floods caused by heavy rains.

The UNDRO said the updated casualty figures also indicated that 15,000 persons were affected of whom 8,000 were homeless.

The Romanian Army and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were currently distributing food and other supplies. However, UNDRO said, international assistance was urgently needed in order to rehabilitate and reconstruct the regions most severely struck.

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Major-General Greindl of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) has issued a protest to the Iraqi authorities about an incident yesterday morning in the demilitarized zone between the two countries.

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents today at Headquarters that the Iraqi police had opened fire at a reconnaissance patrol of Kuwaiti police, who are in the process of reestablishing their presence in the border area, and who were accompanied by UNIKOM personnel.

The spokesman said UNIKOM personnel intervened and, as result, both sides withdrew. There were no injuries and no further firing.

In a separate development, the spokesman said the Secretary-General remained hopeful that an agreement on the release of hostages detained in Israel and in Lebanon could be reached, although he declined to speculate on a time frame. The Secretary-General described the process as "entering the time of quiet diplomacy". The Secretary-General will remain "for the next week or so" in Europe on call if needed and will have continuing contacts with all parties.

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